

New Jersey

The Official Newsletter of the
New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

Fire Focus

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
James E. McGreevey
Governor

November / December 2002

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

Governor McGreevey Appoints Lawrence Petrillo Director of New Jersey Division of Fire Safety

New Jersey Governor James E. McGreevey announced on August 1st that he had chosen Lawrence Petrillo to direct the Division of Fire Safety, which is part of the state's Department of Community Affairs. Petrillo, 46, will bring over 25 years of experience in the fire prevention and fire safety fields to his new position.

"The goal of the Division of Fire Safety is to serve as the central point of access for New Jersey's fire service community and the general public on all matters relating to fire safety," said McGreevey. "Larry Petrillo, through his long experience as a firefighter, inspector and fire safety consultant, will undoubtedly continue to drive the mission of the Division through public education programs and firefighter training programs."

Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, which administers the Division of Fire Safety, praised Petrillo for being well qualified to serve as the state's Fire Safety Director. "Twenty-five years of fire service experience have provided him with the insights he will need to make a real contribution to the fire departments in our communities," said Commissioner Levin.

"The horror and catastrophic effects of fire are learned early on as a firefighter and are never forgotten," said Petrillo. "I am anxious to begin this next phase of my fire service career clearly focused on reducing the number of fires in New Jersey and increasing the safety and well-being of our citizens and firefighters."

Petrillo was previously CEO of Laur/Chris Training Concepts & Productions,



Governor James E. McGreevey (left) announces his appointment of Lawrence Petrillo (center) as Director of the state's Division of Fire Safety. At right is Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

Inc., which provided occupational safety, health and fire consultation services to private corporations and municipal fire departments, including the New York City Fire Department, the United States Postal Service and the United States Coast Guard. Petrillo founded the company in 1994.

From 1985-1994, Petrillo served as the Director of the Occupational Safety, Health and Fire Division of the New Jersey Safety Council. During this time, he also served as the Director of the New Jersey Fire College, where he developed firefighter training and educational programs for

municipal and industrial fire departments. Under his direction, more than 4,200 students were trained annually. He also served as President of the Fire Safety College since 1998.

Petrillo began his career in 1976 as a volunteer firefighter with the Carteret Fire Department, where he became a career firefighter in 1981. He attended Thomas A. Edison State University and Middlesex County College, as well as the Teterboro School of Aeronautics. Petrillo is married, has two children, and currently resides in Carteret.

FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

News from the July 17, 2002 Meeting - by Marylain Kemp

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission met on Wednesday, July 17, 2002 at the Emergency Management Operations Center in Beach Haven. Chairman Assemblyman John Wisniewski brought the meeting to order. After the Chairman led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and pointed out the exits, a moment of silence was observed to honor the three firefighters and three children who died in the Gloucester City fire on the 4th of July.

The minutes of the May 15, 2002 meeting were approved.

Glenn Kasper announced that there were two pieces of correspondence that were received since the meeting packets were mailed out: a letter from Assemblyman Joseph Roberts and a memorandum from Alan Musicant, a member of the Public Education Advisory Council.

Commissioner DeTrollo stated that the memorandum from Mr. Musicant concerned the appointment of a new Director of the Division of Fire Safety. The topic was discussed at considerable length. A motion was made to send a letter to the Governor recommending that the appointment of Division Director be made as soon as possible so that the Division can function as intended.

Commissioner Lightbody indicated that the letter from Assemblyman Joseph Roberts requests an amendment to the law requiring the installation of battery-operated smoke detectors inside of every bedroom upon resale or rental. He further stated that the New Jersey Fire Protection and Prevention Association supports this request. Several issues were discussed that related to smoke detectors, construction and multi-dwellings. Assemblyman Wisniewski indicated that the Division should determine if such things can be accomplished through regulation. In the meantime, however, the Assemblyman said he will introduce a bill to change the requirements of the law. A motion was made to refer this issue to the Codes Advisory Council for additional review.

Assemblyman Wisniewski thanked Commissioner Whitecraft for obtaining the use of the Operations Center for the July meeting.

Division of Fire Safety Activities

Fire Equipment Certification Program. William Kramer thanked Assemblyman Wisniewski for sponsoring legislation that extended the timeframe to allow the Division to work closely with industry in developing regulations for the fire equipment certification program. The Division will share copies of draft regulations with both the Codes Advisory Council and the Training and Education Advisory Council for their review and comment.

Invalid Emblem Program. The Division has met with the Department of Human Services and has drafted regulations on the implementation of the statute requiring the Division to provide invalid emblems to anyone meeting certain criteria.

Thermal Imaging Cameras. The Division is working with the Attorney General's Office and the Purchase Bureau regarding a reported problem with the cameras. We hope to have received some information to report at the next meeting.

Regulations. Both the Fire Officer Certification regulations and the Industrial Fire Brigade regulations have been signed by Commissioner Levin and forwarded to the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the New Jersey Register as a proposal.

Dormitory Suppression Program. To date, 71% of dormitory beds are reportedly suppressed, and close to 100% of dormitory beds are expected to be suppressed by this time next year - which will be a year ahead of schedule.

Fraternities/Sororities Suppression. The Division is working with local fire officials, particularly in Newark, New Brunswick and Glassboro, to get buildings occupied by fraternities and sororities suppressed.

College Study. Rutgers has started the process of developing a survey instrument for the college study recommended by the Commission.

Supervisor of Training and Certification, Division of Fire Safety. John Brasko, the former Supervisor of the Office of Training and Certification, has left his key position with the Division and has begun working with the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg. John will be greatly missed.

Fundraising Issue. Information provided by Commissioner Naylis pertaining to questions surrounding various fundraising activities was forwarded to the Attorney General's Office.

E-Mails/Foreign Universities. A notice from the USFA advising fire departments and emergency squads not to respond to requests for specific emergency information requests from foreign Universities was distributed to Commission members.

Gloucester City Firefighter Fatalities Investigation. Staff members from the Division visited the Gloucester City fire scene and attended the funerals. Organizations participating in the Division's initial investigation will include the Departments of Labor and Health, NIOSH, and the Gloucester City Fire Department.

Inspections of State Facilities. George Miller said that the Division's inspections staff was increased three years ago to handle its anticipated state facilities workload. An investigative reporter who recently asked to review

inspection records pertaining to certain facilities administered by the Department of Human Services found that all cited violations were corrected within 30 days, and that all developmental facilities are up to date with respect to fire code requirements with the exception of two retrofit cases, which will be completed by January.

Work Station Uniforms. Bill Kramer stated that he recently met with representatives of the Department of Labor to discuss workstation uniform requirements.

ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS

Codes

The issue of high rise occupancy is again under review. Chief Brenner suggested that all occupancies should be covered, not only casinos.

The Council requested a copy of the contractor certification regulations draft, which Bill Kramer said he would provide.

Some confusion apparently continues to exist regarding the registration of group homes and community residences. A subcommittee is working to clarify this issue and will report back to the Commission.

With regard to UL30, Suppression Systems and Hoods, some fire equipment companies making inspections are indicating that suppression hood parts cannot be replaced and are recommending replacing the system. A recommendation was made to have the Division issue a Fire Safety bulletin regarding suppression hoods and the servicing, tagging and replacement of parts.

The committee recommended that the issue of school lockdown be handled at the local level. In addition, the Division will contact the Attorney General's Office to obtain an opinion on fire concerns. Several members discussed the use of fire alarms during lockdowns.

Code changes are needed to protect balloon frame structures - structures where there is no fire stop from the basement through the first, second and

third floors, including the attic. There is presently no requirement for fire stopping in the fire code. The Council will look into this issue.

Training and Education

Staff is developing the regulations and certifications needed for the installation, servicing, repairing, inspecting and maintenance of fire protection equipment. Assembly Bill 2423, sponsored by Assemblyman Wisniewski, has been signed into law by the Governor. This legislation adds three members to the Advisory Council and makes the certifications effective on the 61st day following promulgations of the rules.

Commissioner Anderson noted that John Brasko and Gary Licknack have left the Division, and that staffing has been and continues to be a problem.

A delay in issuing certificates has been experienced because of the late appointment of a new Director.

The Fire Inspector course is being revised by a contractor to conform to the new requirement of 90 hours of training. The course is expected to be completed soon.

The Council is continuing to work on the development of training strategies that make incident management system courses more relevant to structural firefighters.

The Fire Safety Commission expressed lengthy concern about the failure rates of the Firefighter I classes. Recommendations were made that neither the Firefighter I Standard nor the minimum passing grade should be lowered, and that candidates who do not succeed in passing the test after three attempts should not be permitted to take the test again. The Chairman asked the Council to report on the matter at a future meeting.

The proposed Firefighter I Standard was revised after input from the fire service. The Standard was then approved and forwarded to the Commission with the recommendation that it be approved and forwarded to the DCA Commissioner for adoption.

The Council asked Division staff to develop a survey for determining which eligible organizations offer Firefighter II courses and what specific areas are covered.

Current Firefighter Standards require 84 hours of training, but most courses are averaging 120 hours. Members agreed that further discussions on the matter should continue at the next Commission meeting.

Statistics and Information

The NFIRS Retreat is scheduled for February 3, 2003, although a location has not yet been determined.

Approximately 68% are currently participating in fire incident reporting, but some departments have not yet submitted their reports for 2001. The question of what action would be appropriate to take with regard to fire departments that have failed to submit NFIRS reports after accepting a thermal imaging camera under the Division's program was discussed.

Master Planning and Research

An analysis of college fire protection is being performed.

The advisory council is asking that a survey be sent out on school fire protection to give us a better idea of current fire safety conditions. A supply of a program of the International Association of Fire Chiefs for the evaluation of public fire protection has been ordered.

The Council is interested in reviewing the original Fire Safety Study Commission Report to determine if revisions would be desirable.

Legislation has been introduced to grant tenure to certain fire officials.

Public Education

The luncheon to honor the poster contest winners is scheduled to be held on August 2nd at the East Dover Fire Department. The Wal-Mart corporation has committed to printing 10,000 copies of the grand prize winning poster.

(Continued on Page 8)

Governor McGreevey Drops in on Firefighter Conventions

Members who attended the two super-firefighter conventions in mid-September had the opportunity to mingle and chat with New Jersey Governor Jim McGreevey. McGreevey stopped by both events to address the attendees and exchange experiences with the state's firefighters. The Governor, who appeared to enjoy himself, spent a considerable amount of time receiving input from members of the fire service, and asking questions of his own, as well. Onlookers were frequently entertained by the good-natured joking that took place between the Governor and the firefighters.

The State Firemen's Association's convention was held at the new convention center in Wildwood on September 13th and 14th, while the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) held theirs in Atlantic City at the Trump Marina on September 16th to the 19th. Both organizations have held their annual conventions in New Jersey for well over a century. The events provide an opportunity for members of the organizations to get together and discuss at great length and detail matters of professional concern. Additional information on both organizations can be found on their websites: www.njfmbsa.org and www.njstatefiremensrelief.com.



Photos this page, clockwise from upper right: State Fire Safety Director Larry Petrillo arrives at Wildwood Convention Center in Division's new emergency response vehicle, which Petrillo lobbied for and received shortly before the convention. Next, Governor McGreevey engages in banter with Division staff at their display booth. From left to right are Paul Allen, Maggie Torsiello, Andy Fritz, Heather Puskar, Doug Foley, Gary Licknack, Governor McGreevey, Rolf Maris and Jim McIntyre. Below left, FMBA President Bill Lavin welcomes attendees to his organization's annual convention; and above Lavin, FMBA members pack into the Trump Marina auditorium in anticipation of several scheduled keynote speakers.



Opposite page, clockwise from top: Fire Safety Director Lawrence Petrillo presents an official Division of Fire Safety jacket and hat to Governor Jim McGreevey (top left), and to DCA Commissioner Susan Bass Levin (top right); Governor McGreevey engages in spirited discussions with FMBA membership; Sue D'Alessio of the Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston pauses for a Kodak moment with the Governor; Governor McGreevey stops off at the FMBA merchandise store and considers rounding out his casual wardrobe; and, as the Governor departs from the FMBA's convention, Fire Safety Director Larry Petrillo continues to emphasize to the Governor the importance of providing adequate support to the state's fire service.



Photo by John Hund, NJ FMBA



Poster Contest Winners Honored at August Luncheon

The New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association and the Division of Fire Safety, two organizations that have worked closely together over the years to sponsor the statewide poster contest, held a luncheon on August 2nd to honor the winners of the 2001-2002 contest. The primary sponsors were also joined this year by representatives from the Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices Local Union 696, and the Wal-Mart Corporation, two organizations that demonstrated their support of fire safety by picking up the costs associated with purchasing the computer systems awarded as prizes to the contest winners and printing 10,000 full-color copies of the grand prize-winning poster. Many other fire service representatives also came to honor the talented young artists, to praise them to their families and friends, and, of course, to enjoy a terrific lunch.



Glenn Kasper (right) fills in new Fire Safety Director Larry Petrillo (left) on details of the statewide poster contest. Kasper, who coordinated the contest for the Division of Fire Safety, received considerable recognition during the course of the luncheon for the outstanding job he did in raising the level of participation in the contest.



Winners of the Statewide Poster Contest for 2001-2002 proudly display their works at a luncheon held in their honor at the Dover Township Fire Station on August 2nd. In front row, from left to right, are Grand Prize winner Jamie Estes of Sewell Township, Gabrielle Music of Carlstadt, Kristen Kipilla of Elmwood Park, Maurice Bell of Burlington Township, Christopher Lee of Bayville, Edward Castoire, Jr. of Jersey City, and Jessica Beniquez of Newark. At rear, from left to right, are Lawrence Petrillo, Director of the Division of Fire Safety; Michael Hardy of Wal-Mart; Richard Hodavance and Joseph Colfer of the Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices Local Union 696; Bill Kramer of the Division of Fire Safety; and John Lightbody, President of the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association.



Above: Michael Hardy of the Wal-Mart Corporation congratulates the young poster contest winners on their achievements. The Wal-Mart Corporation provided financial support for the printing of 10,000 copies of the grand prize-winning poster.

Top Left: John Lightbody, President of the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association, welcomes everyone to the luncheon.

Top Right: Richard Hodavance of the Sprinkler Fitters and Apprentices Local Union 696, the major sponsor of the contest, describes how gratifying it is to see talented young children working to improve their communities. The Sprinkler Fitters' Union purchased the complete computer systems awarded to each of the seven contest winners over the past several years.



Above: Jamie Estes, Grand Prize winner of the statewide poster contest for 2002, proudly displays the brand new Epson Perfection 1250 flatbed scanner that was included in the complete computer package that each of the seven contest winners received. Presenting the scanner to Jamie are, at left, Larry Petrillo, the new Director of the Division of Fire Safety, and, at right, John Lightbody, President of the New Jersey Fire Prevention and Protection Association.

Fire Safety Commission News (Continued from Page 3)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Juvenile Firesetter Prevention

Charlie Luxton was introduced as the new liaison to the Juvenile Firesetters Prevention Committee.

The committee is sending a letter to fire officials asking them to report any incidents of juvenile firesetting to provide a better picture of the dimensions of the problem.

The possibility of publishing statistics on juvenile firesetting in the Division's newsletter was suggested.

Upon being informed that Fire Watch representatives are looking for assistance writing grant proposals, Assistant Commissioner Richman informed the Committee that the Department of Community Affairs offers a grant writing course, and asked that Commissioner Aron provide him with a list of committee members who might be interested in attending it.

A discussion took place about defense attorneys questioning the qualifications of individuals testifying during juvenile firesetter case court proceedings. Assemblyman Wisniewski suggested the possibility of developing a certification process or a recognized standard that individuals who testify can meet to demonstrate their qualifications. The Assemblyman asked the committee to find out if any testimony has actually been excluded from court cases before proceeding with the development of the qualifications criteria.

Water Supply and Water Standby Charges Committee

Assembly Bill 368, which eliminates water supply standby charges for residential uses, has passed the Assembly and is now being considered in the Senate. The bill was amended in the Assembly to reduce supply line requirements from 6 inch to 2 inch, and now covers all new and existing installations, and is limited to residences of four families or less.

Residential Sprinkler Committee

The Committee is waiting for the Commissioner's adoption of the balanced housing regulations, which include a provision for sprinkler protection.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner DeTrollo said that he met with representatives of the City of Trenton regarding the proposed Children's Fire Academy and Museum. DeTrollo described the project as "ambitious."

In response to a request by Commissioner Mercurio, Assemblyman Wisniewski indicated that he would work to move the Carcinogen Bill through committee when the Assembly convenes in the fall.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Naylis, Assemblyman Wisniewski indicated that he has had discussions with the administration regarding the possibility of retaining Glenn Kasper's services as Commission Secretary.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Naylis pointed out that roofers are required under the Fire Code to obtain a permit each time they use a torch on the roof of a building.

Commissioner O'Gorman expressed concern about the closing of fire stations throughout the state, and asked about the extent of the Commission's authority in such situations. Assemblyman Wisniewski said the issue will be discussed further when the Commission meets to redefine its role. When asked about the Division's authority with regard to closings of fire stations in Trenton, Bill Kramer replied that the Division has no authority over local issues.

Legislation has been introduced to provide pensions for widows of volunteer firefighters killed in the line of duty. Bill Kramer pointed out that a death must be traumatic in order the firefighter's spouse to be eligible for the public safety officer's death benefit, and that the death cannot be solely cardiac or respiratory-related. Kramer also pointed out the importance of a Division representative being present at an incident to insure that a firefighter's family member qualifies for the benefit. Kramer said this is a Federal requirement, and that the Division has sent out booklets explaining proper procedures to fire departments and county medical examiners a number of times.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chuck Aughenbaugh, President of the New Jersey Deputy Fire Chiefs Association, made comments on several points:

1. He said it is his understanding that the Governor met with New Jersey's congressional delegation to request additional funding for various state agencies, but did not request additional funding for the state's fire service.

2. He also said that his Association will begin charging \$10.00 for the courses they offer throughout the state to help defray the costs of books and other materials. Mr. Aughenbaugh also said that in his opinion, 82 hours of training for the Firefighter I course is insufficient; and that new firefighters should receive at least 200 hours of training.

3. He further stated that the State Police should follow the Incident Command System based on the law and regulation.

On behalf of the families of the firefighters who died in the line of duty in the Gloucester City fire on the 4th of July, Commissioner Mercurio expressed his thanks to the Division for their assistance during that difficult time.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

DiMaggio Wins 7th Annual Firefighter Bike Race - 5 Racers from Millington Volunteer Fire Co Finish in Top 10

Tom DiMaggio of the Washington Hose Company in Metuchen, NJ was the winner of the 7th Annual Bill Metzler Memorial Bike Race, which was held on July 28, 2002 in Long Hill Township, NJ. DiMaggio has now won five of the seven memorial races.

At the end of the first mile, DiMaggio was in third place but made a huge surge at the end to overcome second place finisher Mike Hoffman of the Millington Volunteer Fire Company. A mere half-wheel length separated the two finishers.

The race, which is held annually in memory of Bill Metzler, who was active in the Stirling Volunteer Fire Company for 55 years, drew 45 firefighter/participants. Proceeds from the race in the amount of \$2,660 will be presented to the Burn Center at the Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey.

This year, an award was given to the best four-member team finish, and this award was won by the Millington Volunteer Fire Company, which placed five racers in the top ten finishers. The "Flat Tire" award went to Neil (Mawg) Williams, Jr. of the Mountainside Fire Company.

The turnout for this year's race was the biggest to date, and race organizers would like to thank all who participated and helped make the race a huge success. Special thanks go out to the racers and the sponsors: Federated Fire Services, Valley Automotive, Triangle Communications, The Stirling Hotel, Tifa Ltd., Millington Savings Bank, the Passaic Township Grange, Star Promotions and Stirling Florist.

TOP TEN FINISHERS - 2002

- 1) **Tom DiMaggio**, Washington Hose Company, Metuchen Fire Department
- 2) **Horace Kalphat**, Long Beach Fire Dept., New York
- 3) **Mike Hoffman**, Millington Fire Dept.
- 4) **Glen Doran**, Millington Fire Dept.
- 5) **Jeff Hodges**, Dunellen Defender Volunteer Fire Dept.
- 6) **John Richards**, Greenbrook Fire/EMS
- 7) **Ryan Ott**, Millington Fire Dept.
- 8) **Richard Morrison**, Lincoln Tunnel PA of NY/NJ
- 9) **Vincent Conte**, Mountainside Fire Company
- 10) **Aram Kachiduran**, Millington Volunteer Fire Company

Anyone interested in next year's race should contact Race Chairman Lou Pepe at (908) 647-0170.

19th Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Safety & Loss Control EXPO 2003 April 8-10, 2003 Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino Atlantic City, New Jersey

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E-Mail: info@njsafety.org**

Have Any Suggestions for the Upcoming Fire Chiefs' Symposium?

The Division of Fire Safety and the State Fire Chiefs' Association are now in the process of planning the Third Fire Chiefs' Symposium, which will be a Saturday program held at a central location, most likely in March or April of the year 2003.

The committee is interested in knowing what types of programs the Chiefs would like to have scheduled, and suggestions regarding symposium's structure are welcome. Are there specific topics or speakers you would like to see? Do you feel you would benefit from management or leadership classes? Case histories? Would discussions of Unified Command or IMS interest you? Is your preference for quarter or half-day seminars? AM or PM sessions? How about Emergency Management and Terrorism? WMD? Or any other topics that you feel would be worthwhile to cover.

If you have opinions, now is the time to notify symposium coordinator Jim McIntyre about them. McIntyre can be reached by e-mail at: jmcintyre@dca.state.nj.us or by traditional mail at the Division of Fire Safety, 101 South Broad Street, P.O. Box 809, Trenton, NJ 08625-0809.

Fire Service Instructors Convene at Middlesex County Fire Academy

A contingent of New Jersey Fire Service Instructors converged at the Middlesex County Fire Academy on Friday, September 20th and Saturday, September 21st to participate in their annual Instructors' Retreat and to acquire CEU credits by attending seminars offered on both days. Seminar offerings included Live Burn, SCBA, Preparation of Drills for Smaller Departments, and Leadership from the Bottom Up. The Retreat was again sponsored by the Division of Fire Safety and Rutgers University.

On Saturday morning, attendees registered and enjoyed a nice continental breakfast before being welcomed in the auditorium by Rolf Maris, Assistant Bureau Chief with the Division of Fire Safety. Maris then turned the floor over to Larry Petrillo, the state's new Fire Safety Director, who Maris introduced as "the man who is going to lead us in the right direction."

Petrillo said that during the 20-year period of the Division of Fire Safety's existence, fire fatalities, both civilian and firefighters, have gone down, in large measure due to the effective education and training programs the Division as offered. He said that during the years he expects to serve as Director, he plans to focus on expanding the support the Division provides to the fire service. "Our focus will NEVER go away from fire prevention, but bringing fire service support up to the levels that currently exist in the Division for inspections, education, training and certification will be my goal," he said. Petrillo also pledged to make the Division more visible and accessible to the state's firefighters.

The new Director also stated that in less than two weeks, he was able to procure two brand-new 2003 emergency response vehicles equipped with appropriate markings and lights. By law, he explained, the

Division is required to respond to major fires. Yet for years Division staffers have been frustrated over being denied access to fire scenes because they lacked vehicles that provided them with positive visible identification as representatives of the Division. "Presence at the scene of major fires is important for us, because we see there firsthand what's going on and we learn what we need to know to structure our training courses to better meet the needs of the fire service, and to push for legislative changes that might be helpful, if necessary" said Petrillo.

Petrillo reminded attendees that a lot of work remains to be done during the relatively short window of opportunity of his tenure as Division Director. The State Police, he said, have placed into operation a communications system whereby all law enforcement agencies are equipped with computers, scanners and printers tied into the state's intranet for notifications of alert-type situations. This system permits the State Police to communicate with all law enforcement agencies at any time - 24 hours a day, seven days a week. But, said Petrillo, "What about the fire service? Aren't we part of the emergency services? Shouldn't we know about terrorist alerts? Shouldn't we be able to notify our counterparts?" Petrillo said that unless the fire service has such a system, there is no way he can instantly communicate with every fire chief in the state with strokes on a keyboard the way that the state police officials can. Petrillo said that he would continue, with the help of the fire service, to push for a communications system that all fire departments in the state would be a part of. "With your help, we can work together, do the right things, and make things better. We want to be ready if the terrorists ever decide to hit New Jersey."

FIRE FOCUS, the official newsletter of the Division of Fire Safety, is published six times a year by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and has a circulation of approximately 10,000. **FIRE FOCUS** invites submissions that would be of interest to the Fire Service Community and will make every effort to print any items so submitted. Because of space constraints, however, **FIRE FOCUS** cannot guarantee that all items submitted will be printed. News articles and information on upcoming events can be FAXed to the newsletter editor at (609) 633-6134, mailed directly to **FIRE FOCUS**, Division of Fire Safety, P.O. Box 809, Trenton, NJ 08625, or e-mailed to **FIRE FOCUS** at: mmatcho@dca.state.nj.us.

A minimum of two months' lead time is generally suggested for dated items. **FIRE FOCUS** will not accept information on articles for publication over the telephone.

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Address changes and subscription requests should be directed to Helen Kerr at the above-mentioned address.

Other questions regarding **FIRE FOCUS** should be directed to the editor at (609) 633-6071.



NJ DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

www.state.nj.us/dca/dfs

Facts About New Jersey

- * New Jersey is a peninsula.
 - * New Jersey is the only state to have all of its counties classified as metropolitan areas.
 - * New Jersey has more race horses than Kentucky.
 - * New Jersey has more Cubans in Union City (1 square mile) than Havana, Cuba.
 - * New Jersey has the most dense system of highways and railroads in the U.S.
 - * New Jersey has the most diners in the world and is sometimes referred to as the Diner Capital of the World.
 - * North Jersey has the most shopping malls in one area in the world, with seven major shopping malls in a 25-square mile radius.
 - * New Jersey is home to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.
 - * The Passaic River was the site of the first submarine ride by inventor John P. Holland.
 - * New Jersey has 50+ resort cities and towns, some of the nation's most famous: Asbury Park, Wildwood, Atlantic City, Seaside Heights, Long Branch and Cape May.
 - * New Jersey has the most stringent testing along our coastline for water quality control than any other seaboard state in the entire country.
 - * New Jersey is a leading industrial state and is the largest chemical producing state in the nation when you include pharmaceuticals.
 - * Two-thirds of the world's eggplants are grown in New Jersey.
 - * New Jersey tomatoes are known the world over as the best you can buy.
 - * New Jersey is the world leader in blueberry and cranberry production.
 - * In 1642, the first brewery in America was opened in Hoboken.
 - * The Hindenberg crashed and burned here.
 - * The famous Les Paul invented the first solid body electric guitar in Mahwah in 1940.
 - * New Jersey is a major seaport state with the largest seaport in the U.S., located in Elizabeth. Nearly 80% of what our nation imports comes through the Elizabeth seaport first.
 - * New Jersey is home to one of the nation's busiest airports - Newark International.
 - * George Washington slept here. Several important Revolutionary War battles were fought on New Jersey soil, led by General George Washington.
 - * The light bulb, phonograph and motion picture projector were invented by Thomas Edison in his Menlo Park, New Jersey laboratory. We also boast the first town ever lit by incandescent bulbs.
 - * The first seaplane was built in Keyport, New Jersey.
 - * The first airmail (to Chicago) was started from Keyport, New Jersey.
 - * The first phonograph records were made in Camden, New Jersey.
 - * New Jersey is home to the Miss America pageant held in Atlantic City.
 - * The game Monopoly, played all over the world, named the streets on their playing board after the actual streets in Atlantic City. And Atlantic City has the longest boardwalk in the world.
 - * New Jersey has the largest petroleum containment area outside of the Middle East countries.
 - * The first Indian reservation was in New Jersey, in the Watchung Mountains.
 - * New Jersey has the tallest water tower in the world.
 - * New Jersey had the first Medical Center, in Jersey City.
 - * The Pulaski Skyway, from Jersey City to Newark, was the first skyway highway.
 - * New Jersey built the first tunnel under a river, the Holland Tunnel.
 - * New Jersey is the only state in the nation to offer complete computer systems as prizes to winners of its statewide fire prevention poster contest.
 - * The first baseball game was played in Hoboken, New Jersey, which is also the birth place of Frank Sinatra.
 - * The first intercollegiate football game was played in New Brunswick in 1889 (Rutgers and Princeton).
 - * The first drive-in movie was opened in Camden, New Jersey.
 - * New Jersey is home to both of New York's pro football teams.
 - * The first radio station and broadcast was in Paterson, New Jersey.
- All of the following are New Jersey natives:**
Jack Nicholson, Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, Jason Alexander, Queen Latifa, Susan Sarandon, Connie Francis, Shaquille O'Neal, Aaron Burr, Dionne Warwick, Sarah Vaughn, Budd Abbott, Lou Costello, Norman Mailer, Marilyn McCoo, Gordon McRae, Flip Wilson, Alexander Hamilton, Whitney Houston, Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, Walt Whitman, Jerry Lewis, Tom Cruise, Joyce Kilmer, Bruce Willis, Caesar Romero, Lauryn Hill, Ice-T, Nick Adams, Nathan Lane, Sandra Dee, Danny DeVito, Ricard Conti, Phyllis Newman, Robert Wuhl, Joe Pesci, Joe Piscopo, Robert Blake, John Forsythe, Meryl Streep, Paul Simon, Kevin Spacey, John Travolta, Eva Marie Saint, Elizabeth Shue, Zebulon Pike, James Fennimore Cooper, Admiral William Halsey, Jr., Dave Thomas (founder of Wendy's), Ray Liotta, Paul Robeson, Ernie Kovacs, and, of course, Frank Sinatra.

FROM:

THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
P.O. Box 809
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0809

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New Jersey Fire Focus

The Official Newsletter of the NJ Division of Fire Safety

Inside the November / December 2002 Issue:

- * *Petrillo Appointed as State's New Fire Safety Director*
- * *Governor McGreevey Drops In On Firefighter Conventions*
- * *Poster Contest Winners Honored at Luncheon*
- * *DiMaggio Finishes First in Firefighter Bicycling Race.... and more!*